

Education

Book Costs – In recent years, the bookstore has made great and successful strides towards reducing book costs for students by implementing the rental and “book buy back” programs. But these advancements can be improved by addressing the root of the problem- professors assigning expensive books. I will work the IT department and Academic Services to raise awareness and knowledge among professors about ways to reduce the costs of textbooks. This can mean reducing students requirements to buy expensive bundled textbooks, better use of Blackboard to post selected book chapters and other materials online, and increased rental options.

Research Opportunities – Currently there are two research opportunities for undergraduates, the Rice and Gamow Fellowships. There are a total of 29 students in these fellowships out of more than 10,000 undergraduates. As President Knapp has proposed in his 10-year plan for the University, GW is transitioning to a research Institution and as such I believe students should be included in this transition. GW students have the desire and ideas to produce high quality research, they just need the funds. As SA President, and head lobbyist for the student body I would push for more funds and grants for undergraduate research on campus.

Experience

Security – Living in a city can be an exciting experience. However, there are still safety concerns that come with living in Washington, D.C. that should not be ignored It’s not pragmatic to say we can eliminate all crime and make every student safe 100% of the time, but we can increase awareness. My goals on this issue start with the simple step of fixing the broken “Blue Light” emergency buttons around campus. It is unacceptable that our university has gone months without addressing this issue. Beyond that, I will work with House Life and GWPD to increase awareness of safety issues and continue to work toward an effective and reasonable strategy for keeping students safe.

I will also continue the fight begun over the last year to have speed bumps installed on the 2100 block of H Street. There are numerous administrative hurdles to overcome, and the decision ultimately rests with the District of Columbia, but it is common sense that such an uncommon stretch of road, which students cross all day and night as they cross from the Marvin Center to the rest of campus, be treated accordingly.

Construction – I was fortunate enough to hold a construction job one summer in High school and learn about its rigors. But I also know that the construction company has total control over its construction site. The eventual completion of the Science and Engineering Complex will surely benefit students for years to come, but it should not come at the expense of those students currently living in the adjacent area. There is no excuse for construction to be starting early in the day or going late at night, disrupting students. Additionally, the university and construction companies should make efforts to make the construction area less burdensome by building more permanent barriers around the construction site, in preparation for the next few years of work on the site.

Engagement

Expand and Enhance Student-Alumni Relationships - GW is not just a city school, it's a global university with more than 200,000 alumni worldwide. To take advantage of those resources, the Career Center and the Office of Alumni Relations has developed the The Career Advisor Network (CAN). This data base allows students to connect with many alumni in a variety of career fields and geographical areas, and receive advice and assistance from GW community members willing to share their professional and life experiences. The problem is, no one knows about it. It is time that we place student-alumni relationships front and center by making this element of student life a can't-miss component of the GW experience. I will seek to more aggressively recruit alumni for participation in this program and encourage

students to apply through a publicity campaign that focuses on the benefit of utilizing this important resource.

Student org financial process – There are over 350 student organization at GW, each of them with a mission and a purpose that cannot and should not be ignored. In order for many of these student organizations to effectively operate, they need the financial ability to do so. Although I wish it could be so, it is impossible for every student organization to receive all of the funding they need; however, the financial process at the school has been overburdened. An executive team, working with the Vice President for Financial Affairs needs to be created in order to facilitate and expedite the student org financial process. I will establish an executive financial team that will guarantee student org financial requests to be processed within one business day.

Additionally, the current online system for filing co-sponsorships is repetitive and inefficient. It is time that we look into alternative options for the financial interface all student organizations use. The system should be streamlined and made easier.

Finally, when it comes to co-sponsorships, student organizations should no longer operate on the Finance Committees time table. As a former student organization treasurer, it was frustrating to see great events slip away because the speaker happened to confirm a day after, rather than a day before, a Finance Committee meeting. I will work with the new Finance Committee chair to establish more frequent meetings, as well as a process by which student organizations can receive short-term funding.